(e) if so, the allocations made during the last three years, year-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Setting up of Thrift and Credit Societies (T&CS) by urban poor women is one of the sub-components of the Urban self Employment Programme (USEP) component under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), an urban poverty alleviation scheme being implemented by this Ministry.

(b) and (c) As reported by States/UTs through Quarterly Progress Reports received upto 15.2.2008, total number of Thrift and Credit Societies set up in the country as well as in Andhra Pradesh, during last three years are as under:

Number of Thrift and Credit Societies (T&CS)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
All India	29643	34443	69756
Andhra Pradesh	4477	885	43966

Minimum number of urban poor women in any Thrift and Credit Society is prescribed as 10. The details of the resources mobilized by these Thrift and Credit Societies and number of urban poor women benefited by these societies are maintained at the State level.

(d) As per the guidelines of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, a Thrift and Credit Society is eligible for getting a lumpsum maximum grant of Rs. 25,000/-subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,000/- per member of Thrift and Credit Society, after one year of its formation.

(e) and (f) There is no separate allocation made for Thrift and Credit Societies (T&CS) component under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana scheme and States/UTs are allowed to meet the demand of Thrift and Credit Societies for lumpsum grant, out of the funds available under the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana. Total allocation for the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana during last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Allocation	160.00	250.00	344.00

ARC Recommendations for urban poor

271. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has recommended for conducting a survey to identify urban poor in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) the other recommendations made by the Commission with regard to urban poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), in its Sixth Report concerning Local Governance has recommended that "an exhaustive survey to identify the urban poor should be carried out within one year.

The parameters to be used for such identification should be simple and easily comprehensible, allowing objective measurement without the use of discretion. The identification should be based on a door-to-door survey with the survey teams including at least one person form the Area Sabha concerned. The urban poor so identified may be issued multi-utility identity cards for availing benefits under all poverty alleviation programmes."

(c) Other major recommendations of the Commission with regard to urban poverty are:

(i) After identifying the urban poor through surveys, a mission mode approach would need to be adopted for alleviating urban poverty in a time-bound and systematic manner. The urban local bodies may also have their own poverty alleviation schemes with adequate background and forward linkages converging with the other poverty alleviation schemes.

(ii) The thrust of the urban poverty alleviation schemes should be on upgradation of skills and training.

(iii) In case of setting up of micro-enterprises, the urban poverty alleviation schemes should be flexible in selecting projects and providing financial assistance.

(iv) To maximize the benefits of micro-finance, formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) need to be encouraged. Institutions and NGOs with good track record should be encouraged to promote SHGs for availing micro-finance.

(v) The education plan should form an integral part of the development plan for the city.

(vi) Urban Local Bodies should adopt the concept of 'Primary Health Care' for providing health and medical facilities to the urban poor, particularly to women and children with the help of auxiliary staff. These should specifically cater to the population living in slum areas.

(vii) There has to be total redevelopment of slum areas. While redeveloping, it should be ensured that adequate provision has been made for schools, health centre, sanitation etc.

(viii) It is necessary to earmark and reserve a certain percentage of land in housing projects in each town and city for the urban poor. If a construction cannot allocate housing for the poor, the developer must, at his own cost, provide suitable housing in any other appropriate place acceptable to the authorities.

(ix) A detailed programme for the provision of night shelters needs to be drawn up in all cities, beginning with large cities having Metropolitan and Municipal Corporations, for implementation.

Opening of philanthropic centres

272. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open philanthropic centres through the NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has entered into an MoU with American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin in the healthcare sector for the purpose, for treatment of various diseases; and